

02/05/2009 Moran Votes for Healthy Kansas Kids

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran released the following statement on his support for a bipartisan bill to provide health care coverage for low-income children through the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). This state program operates in Kansas as HealthWave, a private insurance provider. The legislation passed the House by a vote of 290-135 and has been signed into law by the President.

"If health care is not accessible to the most vulnerable members of our society, our children, any chance of them having long and healthy lives will be at risk," Moran said. "SCHIP and Kansas HealthWave protect children from low-income families who do not have private insurance and do not qualify for Medicaid. Since my first vote in support for SCHIP legislation in 2007, Kansas has seen more than 2,000 additional children enroll in SCHIP. Given the current economic situation, it is even more imperative that these children do not slip through the cracks and that they receive the care and medicine they need to stay healthy."

Kansas facts:

- The 39,483 Kansas children currently enrolled with the Kansas private insurance program - Healthwave- will continue receiving health care coverage with the passage of SCHIP.
- A provision in the bill - authorizing states to expand eligibility for the program - could extend coverage to another 8,000 Kansas children by Fiscal Year 2013.
- If SCHIP was not signed into law, medical costs for the uninsured would be passed on to the local communities, local hospitals emergency rooms and to Kansas citizens who then incur higher medical costs and higher insurance premiums due to cost-shifting.
- The bill allows for Social Security data to be used to confirm citizenship and identity for Medicaid and SCHIP, ensuring that people in this country illegally do not receive free services.

U.S. facts:

- The legislation would insure four million children nationwide who would otherwise be uninsured.
- The bill would protect coverage for children currently enrolled in the program and expand it to cover 11 million low-income children.

The following Kansas organizations join Moran in his support for SCHIP:

AARP Kansas

American Heart Association, Kansas Affiliate

Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas

Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church of Kansas

Cenpatico

Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.

Children's Alliance of Kansas, Inc.

Children's Mercy Family Health Partners

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Communities in Schools, Inc. of Marion County

Communities in Schools, Inc. of Harvey County

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Inc.

Disability Rights Center of Kansas

El Centro, Inc

Family Resource Center

Florence Crittenton Services of Topeka, Inc.

Health Care Access

Inter-Faith Ministries

Johnson County Human Services & Aging

Kansas Action for Children

Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Kansas Association of Community Action Programs

Kansas Association of Health Plans

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved (KAMU)

Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas Dental Association

Kansas Head Start Association

Kansas Health Consumer Coalition

Kansas Hospital Association

Kansas Independent Pharmacy Service Corporation

Kansas Insurance Department, Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger

Kansas Medical Society

Kansas Mental Health Coalition

Kansas PTA

Kansas State Nurses Association

Latino Community Coalition/Centro Hispano

League of Women Voters Kansas

March of Dimes, Greater Kansas Chapter

Maternal and Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City

Merillac

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Kansas)

Oral Health Kansas

Partnership for Children

Salvation Army of Kansas and Western Missouri Division

Shawnee County Family Resource Center

Sister Janice Thome, Garden City

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Smart Start Crawford County and Southeast Kansas

Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK)

Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County

TFI Family Services

TLC for Children and Families, Inc.

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Inc.

Topeka Results

True Blue Women

UniCare Health Plan of Kansas, Inc.

United Community Services of Johnson County

United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, Inc.

United Way of Greater Topeka

United Way of Kansas

Via Christi Health System

Western Plains District, Church of the Brethren

Youthville

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